

- b. The care of permanent tracheostomy;
- c. Testing urine and care of the feet (diabetic patients only); and
- d. Blood pressure monitoring.

Teaching and training services (also referred to as educational services) can be covered only where they provide knowledge essential for the chronically ill patient's participation in his or her own treatment and only where they can be reasonably related to such treatment or diagnosis. Educational services that provide more elaborate instruction than is necessary to achieve the required level of patient education are not covered. After essential information has been provided, the patient should be relied upon to obtain additional information on his or her own.

C. Relation to Home Health Benefits

This coverage should not be considered as an alternative to home health benefits where there is a participating home health agency in the area which could provide the needed services on a timely basis. For example, two of the three services initially included under this coverage - injections and venipuncture - are skilled nursing services that could be covered as home health services (EKG is not a covered Home Health Agency (HHA) service) if the patient is eligible for home health benefits and there is a home health agency available. Thus, postpayment review of these claims will include measures to assure that physicians and clinics do not provide a substantial number of services under this coverage when they could otherwise have been performed by a home health agency.

In these circumstances, the physician or clinic is expected to assist the patient in obtaining such skilled services together with the other home health services (such as aide services). However, HHA services are not considered available where the HHA cannot respond on a timely basis or where the physician could not have foreseen that intermittent services would be needed.

Refer to the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 10, "Home Health Agency Billing," for a more in depth discussion of home health services.

60.4.1 - Definition of Homebound Patient Under the Medicare Home Health (HH) Benefit

(Rev. 192, Issued: 08-01-14, Effective: 09-02-14, Implementation: 09-02-14)

This definition applies to homebound for purposes of the Medicare home health benefit.

For a patient to be eligible to receive covered home health services, the law requires that a physician certify in all cases that the patient is confined to his/her home. For purposes of the statute, an individual shall be considered "confined to the home" (homebound) if the following two criteria are met:

1. Criteria-One:

The patient must either:

- Because of illness or injury, need the aid of supportive devices such as crutches, canes, wheelchairs, and walkers; the use of special transportation; or the assistance of another person in order to leave their place of residence

OR

- Have a condition such that leaving his or her home is medically contraindicated.

If the patient meets one of the Criteria-One conditions, then the patient must ALSO meet two additional requirements defined in Criteria-Two below.

2. Criteria-Two:

- There must exist a normal inability to leave home;

AND

- Leaving home must require a considerable and taxing effort.

If the patient does in fact leave the home, the patient may nevertheless be considered homebound if the absences from the home are infrequent or for periods of relatively short duration, or are attributable to the need to receive health care treatment. Absences attributable to the need to receive health care treatment include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance at adult day centers to receive medical care;
- Ongoing receipt of outpatient kidney dialysis; or
- The receipt of outpatient chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Any absence of an individual from the home attributable to the need to receive health care treatment, including regular absences for the purpose of participating in therapeutic, psychosocial, or medical treatment in an adult day-care program that is licensed or certified by a State, or accredited to furnish adult day-care services in a state, shall not disqualify an individual from being considered to be confined to his home. Any other absence of an individual from the home shall not so disqualify an individual if the absence is of an infrequent or of relatively short duration. For purposes of the preceding sentence, any absence for the purpose of attending a religious service shall be deemed to be an absence of infrequent or short duration. It is expected that in most instances, absences from the home that occur will be for the purpose of receiving health care

treatment. However, occasional absences from the home for nonmedical purposes, e.g., an occasional trip to the barber, a walk around the block or a drive, attendance at a family reunion, funeral, graduation, or other infrequent or unique event would not necessitate a finding that the patient is not homebound if the absences are undertaken on an infrequent basis or are of relatively short duration and do not indicate that the patient has the capacity to obtain the health care provided outside rather than in the home. Some examples of homebound patients that illustrate the factors used to determine whether a homebound condition exists would be:

- A patient paralyzed from a stroke who is confined to a wheelchair or requires the aid of crutches in order to walk;
- A patient who is blind or senile and requires the assistance of another person in leaving his or her place of residence;
- A patient who has lost the use of the upper extremities and, therefore, is unable to open doors, use handrails on stairways, etc., requires the assistance of another individual to leave his or her place of residence;
- A patient in the late stages of ALS or neurodegenerative disabilities. In determining whether the patient has the general inability to leave the home and leaves the home only infrequently or for periods of short duration, it is necessary to look at the patient's condition over a period of time rather than for short periods within the home health stay. For example, a patient may leave the home (under the conditions described above, e.g., with severe and taxing effort, with the assistance of others) more frequently during a short period when, for example, the presence of visiting relatives provides a unique opportunity for such absences, than is normally the case. So long as the patient's overall condition and experience is such that he or she meets these qualifications, he or she should be considered confined to the home.
- A patient who has just returned from a hospital stay involving surgery who may be suffering from resultant weakness and pain and, therefore, his or her actions may be restricted by the physician to certain specified and limited activities such as getting out of bed only for a specified period of time, or walking stairs only once a day, etc.;
- A patient with arteriosclerotic heart disease of such severity that the beneficiary must avoid all stress and physical activity; and
- A patient with a psychiatric illness that is manifested in part by a refusal to leave home or is of such a nature that it would not be considered safe for the patient to leave home unattended, even if he or she had no physical limitations.

The aged person who does not often travel from home because of feebleness and insecurity brought on by advanced age would not be considered confined to the home for purposes of this reimbursement unless they meet one of the above conditions above.

70 - Sleep Disorder Clinics

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

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Sleep disorder clinics are facilities in which certain conditions are diagnosed through the study of sleep. Such clinics are for diagnosis, therapy, and research. Sleep disorder clinics may provide some diagnostic or therapeutic services, which are covered under Medicare. These clinics may be affiliated either with a hospital or a freestanding facility. Whether a clinic is hospital-affiliated or freestanding, coverage for diagnostic services under some circumstances is covered under provisions of the law different from those for coverage of therapeutic services.

A. Criteria for Coverage of Diagnostic Tests

All reasonable and necessary diagnostic tests given for the medical conditions listed in subsection B are covered when the following criteria are met:

- The clinic is either affiliated with a hospital or is under the direction and control of physicians. Diagnostic testing routinely performed in sleep disorder clinics may be covered even in the absence of direct supervision by a physician;
- Patients are referred to the sleep disorder clinic by their attending physicians, and the clinic maintains a record of the attending physician's orders; and
- The need for diagnostic testing is confirmed by medical evidence, e.g., physician examinations and laboratory tests.

Diagnostic testing that is duplicative of previous testing done by the attending physician to the extent the results are still pertinent is not covered because it is not reasonable and necessary under §1862(a)(1)(A) of the Act.

B. Medical Conditions for Which Testing is Covered

Diagnostic testing is covered only if the patient has the symptoms or complaints of one of the conditions listed below. Most of the patients who undergo the diagnostic testing are not considered inpatients, although they may come to the facility in the evening for testing and then leave after testing is over. The overnight stay is considered an integral part of these tests.

1. Narcolepsy - This term refers to a syndrome that is characterized by abnormal sleep tendencies, e.g., excessive daytime sleepiness or disturbed nocturnal sleep. Related diagnostic testing is covered if the patient has inappropriate sleep episodes or attacks